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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PA-02 PRS-01
/116 W
---------- 089131 /14
R 220632Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4333

UNCLAS TOKYO 18692

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, JA
SUBJECT: US REACTION TO OPEC PRICE DECISION AS SEEN IN JAPAN

REF: (A) TOKYO 18552 (B) STATE 306331

1. THE FOLLOWING THEMES APPEAR IN JAPANESE
PRESS STORIES REPORTING US REACTION TO THE OPEC TWO-TIER
PRICE DECISION:

- THE U.S. GENERALLY WAS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED AT THE OPEC
PRICE DECISION, PARTICULARLY WITH VENEZUELA. NOTE WAS TAKEN
OF PRESIDENT FORD'S BRANDING THE OPEC ELEVEN AS "IRRESPONSIBLE".
THE U.S. CAN HANDLE THE PRICE INCREASE, BUT COUNTRIES LIKE
THE UK, ITALY AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL BE HARD HIT.
PROFESSOR KLEIN OF PENN, AND "ECONOMIC CIRCLES" ARE CITED.

- THERE IS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND
SAUDI ARABIA, SO MUCH SO THAT ONE PAPER, YOMIURI, SPECULATED
THAT THERE WAS A SECRET US-SAUDI DEAL, WHICH NOW PUTS THE US
IN THE THERE WAS A SECRET US-SAUDI DEAL, WHICH NOW PUTS THE US
IN THE SAUDI'S DEBT. SECRETARY SIMON IS QUOOED AS HAVING
SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS A FRIEND OF THE WEST, ESPECIALLY
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OF THE US, AND IT WAS REPORTED THAT CARTER AND VANCE
INTEND TO SEND NOTES OF APPRECIATION TO SAUDI ARABIA.

2. COMMENT. THE VERNACULAR PRESS HAS REFLECTED MORE
ACCURATELY THAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS THE US ATTITUDE
TOWARDS THE PRICE HIKE AS OUTLINED IN TTE WHHTE HOUSE STATEMENT

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AND IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING. INITIAL ENGLISH
LANGUAGE REPORTING TENDED TO FOCUS ON STATEMENTS PRAISING SAUDI
STATESMANSHIP AND REASONABLESS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 22 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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